

**THE WHITE HOUSE**

**WASHINGTON**

February 1, 2019

The Honorable Elijah Cummings  
Chairman  
Committee on Oversight and Reform  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Cummings:

I write in response to your letter dated January 8, 2019 concerning the public disclosure requirements of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978. As you know, I have been working with your Committee to accommodate your interests on several matters, while carefully considering the constitutional prerogatives of the President. I appreciate the consideration you have provided me and my staff throughout our discussions.

Shortly after our January 16, 2019 meeting, my staff conducted a review of the issues raised in your January 8 letter. At this time, potentially responsive records have been identified in relation to the first two categories of your request. These documents describe the thorough process in which senior officials within the Office of the Counsel to the President worked with outside counsel and the Office of Government Ethics to prepare, certify, and disclose the President's financial reporting obligations in an accurate, timely, and transparent manner.

The President must protect the constitutional interests of his office. I seek to reach a reasonable accommodation with your Committee to provide you with information in a manner that permits the President, and future Presidents, to faithfully discharge their constitutional responsibilities. Many of the relevant White House documents concern the advice provided by the Office of the Counsel to the President and therefore may not be shared. To accommodate your Committee, I am prepared to consider making the remaining documents, which relate to the compliance process but nonetheless remain sensitive, available for review by your staff.

My hope is that this response satisfactorily addresses the inquiries in your January 8, 2019 letter. I am available to meet if you would like to discuss further.

Sincerely,



Pat Cipollone  
*Counsel to the President*

cc: The Honorable Jim Jordan, Ranking Member